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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: LeRoy A. Kuta et al. Examiner: Unknown  
Serial No.: 09/883,144 Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Filed: June 15, 2001 Docket No.: 56731USA9A (M120.137.101)  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATICALLY APPLYING A  
FLYING SPLICING TAPE TO A ROLL OF SHEET MATERIAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir/Madam:

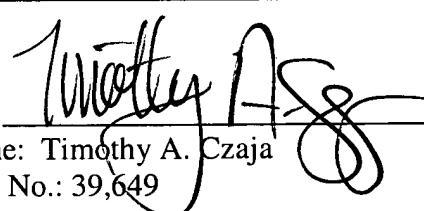
We are transmitting herewith the attached:

Transmittal Sheet containing Certificate of Mailing (1 pg.).  
 Preliminary Amendment (11 pgs.).  
 Preliminary Amendment (Version with Markings to Show Changes Made) (9 pgs.)  
 Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for additional claims.  
 Other:  
 Return Postcard.

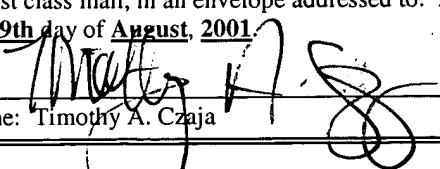
If an additional fee is required due to changes to the claims, the fee has been calculated as follows:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	(1) Claims Remaining After Amendment		(2) Highest Number Previously Paid For	(3) Present Extra	Rate	Fee
TOTAL CLAIMS	43	-	43	0	x 18.00 =	\$0.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3	-	3	0	x 80.00 =	\$0.00
[ ] MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED						\$0.00
TOTAL						\$0.00

DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, P.A.  
701 Building, Suite 1250  
701 Fourth Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

By:   
Name: Timothy A. Czaja  
Reg. No.: 39,649

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on this 9th day of August, 2001.

By   
Name: Timothy A. Czaja